

BEYOND

"BUS DRILLS"



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BUS DRILLS AND BUS SAFETY MUST BE TAUGHT EACH AND EVERY DAY!

**THREE 15 MINUTE DRILLS A YEAR
IS NOT ENOUGH!!**

How many times have we, the bus driver, heard or read "children forget?" Children do forget, and it's our job to reinforce bus safety each and every Day. This activity booklet was developed to give you, the bus driver, some Activities that you can do if you have a minute or two with your students.

Such as:

when you are loading or unloading at the schools

when you are broke down

when you are waiting in a traffic jam

We have included some activities that you will need to have the support of the school administration to implement.

"THANK YOU!"

to those that willingly gave of their time and efforts to put this booklet together in promoting the safety of our "precious, irreplaceable cargo" we transport.

Pam Bird
Debbie Ferguson
Judie Lenkiewicz (retired)
Pat Murphy
Tony Quaranta
Peggy Sherwood
Amy Shirley
Donna Signs
Faye Waxman
Rose Winters

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COPY AND DISTRIBUTE THIS BOOKLET IN ITS COMPLETE FORM TO ANYONE THAT WOULD USE IT.

Activity #1

"SECURING THE BUS

Have students pretend to pull the parking brake as they're unloading. (It is very important that you let them actually touch and pretend to set the brake.)



Activity #2

"RADIO USE"



- Have a student call base for a radio check. Make sure they know how to use the radio. Remind them that if this were an actual emergency they would give the three "W's"
- **What**.....(emergency)
- **Who**.....(Bus 200)
- **Where**...(location)

Activity #3

"TWO MINUTES OR LESS"

Give students a scenario. Determine if evacuation is necessary. (explain why and how) Have them evacuate using the proper exit. (front door) Using a watch with a second hand and or alarm, time their exit. (Use of an athletic stop watch always impresses them.) If they exit in two minutes or less let them know that they are great. Time them all week and let them know if they improved or held the same time. If their time was too long, point out something positive (example..."That was nice and orderly. Now we need to work on our time.") For the rest of the week, time them each morning unloading at the school. They are sure to improve. Remind the last student off the bus to check seats for other students.

Activity #4

"AIR RELEASE"



- Let students release the air and open the door manually when unloading at the school. Be sure to activate lights before they actually unload. Depending on time, allow as many students as possible to practice. Continue through the week until each student has a chance to practice. Remember to use your time wisely.

Activity #5

"CHECK BEFORE YOU STEP"

Pick something that is not always behind the bus while you are unloading. (A red car, a piece of garbage, you could even set something up before hand etc.) Ask students to check before they step and tell you what they see. This forces them to really look.

Activity #6

"EMERGENCY EXITS"

Let students actually open an exit they are sitting next to. Make sure that they understand that in an emergency situation they should be willing to open the exit and assist other students out the exit if need be. If they are uncomfortable performing these tasks they should request another seat be assigned to them.



Activity #7

"FINDING EMERGENCY EXITS"

Each student will receive and put on a blindfold. Then they will be instructed to go to the nearest emergency exit. Explain that each student should know at all times where their nearest emergency exit is and how many seats they are away from it. Remind them that they may ride a substitute bus, be on a field trip, or a sports trip, and each bus could be different. When they unload at any given time you could ask them how many seats they are from the nearest emergency exit. Keep them on their toes.

Activity #8

"UNLOADING"

Unload a certain section of the bus each week. Pick a section of the bus to unload. Explain to the students that we are going to pretend we have had an accident and we need to evacuate from (front, middle, back) section of the bus. This is good practice in case you ever have an emergency and need to evacuate a certain section first. It will help students do this in an orderly fashion rather than having utter chaos.

Activity #9

"FLASH CARDS"



Make flash cards with different safety issues on them. (picture of students sitting in their seats properly, staying out of the aisle, crossing properly, danger zones etc.) Change them frequently as to attract the attention of the students. This works as a great reminder of Safety Issues.

Activity #10

"BEST SEAT CONTEST"

This activity teaches students to get along with their seat partners. Make a chart with each student's name on it and the date. The object is for each seat to work together to get the **LEAST** amount of points per seat. You can choose to give rewards on weekly, monthly, or yearly basis. Example: if student is asked to sit down, or quiet down that is 1 point each for their seat. If the student is fighting, that is worth 5 points for their seat. A student talking back would be worth 10 points for their seat. Obviously, you can make up your own rules and how many points are given for each unacceptable behavior.



Activity #11

"ATTENDANCE"

Students have assigned seats. Each afternoon before the bus leaves the school, it is the "job" of all the students to check around near them for any missing students. If they know someone is missing, they let the bus driver know so he/she can check with the school on the students whereabouts. This accomplishes a few things...first, students sit in their assigned seats which helps a substitute driver know who is on and who isn't. This also helps students learn to care and look out for each other. If there is an actual emergency, they will automatically be prepared to look out and care for each other.

Activity #13

"MEET "TILLY" THE SCHOOL BUS SAFETY DUCK"

"Tilly the School Bus Safety Duck" was born the fall of 1993. This was during the same time "Barney" became popular. What could get children's attention to the importance of bus safety, maybe a duck, the same color as a school bus? Thus "Tilly" was born!

"Tilly" began her career by going into elementary schools, teaching students in K-3rd grade. They went over the correct crossing procedures, correct loading and unloading procedures, properly securing the school bus, and rules for keeping safe on the school bus. They had fun making up songs and poems about school bus safety. "Tilly" works with the SAFE (Student Accident Fire Evacuation) bus instructing students to evacuate properly in an emergency situation, and crossing safely. "Tilly" has been invited to speak to a Driver Education class at the local high school, which was quite successful and accepted by the "older" students! "Tilly" participates in local parades, Fairs, and Elementary School Open Houses, speaking not only with students but with parents and teachers as well. "Tilly" is very SAFETY conscious and desires to do all she can to promote School Bus Safety.



Activity #14

"USING "TILLY" THE SCHOOL BUS SAFETY DUCK

Now that you have met "Tilly" you can use her to help teach bus safety in other ways. Make a magnet with "Tilly's" picture on it and put it up in front of the bus and call it "Tilly's Day." Put a ribbon on a safety point (emergency window, hatch, brake, etc.). Reward the student who spots it and can explain why the ribbon was where it was placed and how that is a safety point.



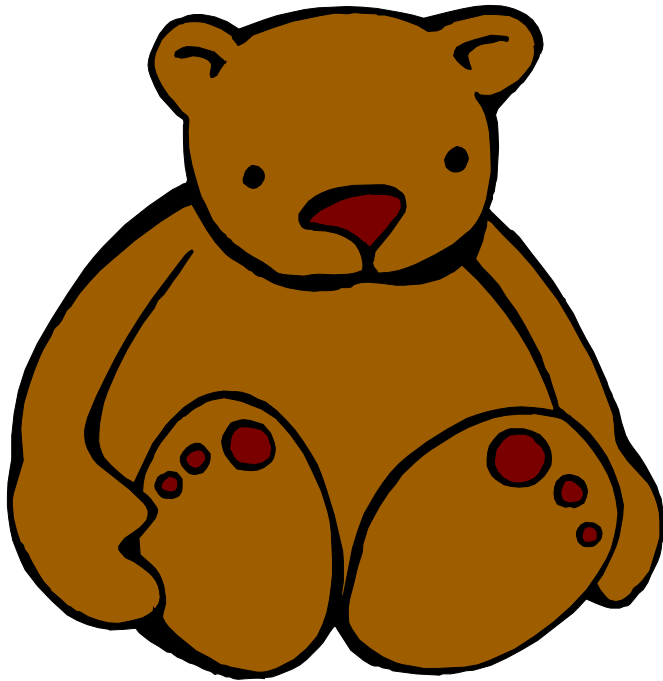
Activity #15

"SAFE" BUS ACTIVITIES WITH A STANDARD BUS"

A "SAFE" Bus is used to train children on the proper way to exit the emergency windows, hatches, and doors in a variety of emergency scenarios. A "SAFE" Bus is a modified school bus that includes side, rear and roof platforms as well as railings and ladders. The modifications are designed to provide an extra level of safety for the students as they practice their emergency evacuations. If you do not have access to your own SAFE Bus, a standard school bus can be used during training. Four foot risers from your school music department can be used with smaller children as they practice evacuations using emergency windows. Older children can practice window evacuations with 2 adult spotters at the window. For practice evacuations using the roof hatches, students can be instructed on how to raise themselves up through the roof hatches to the point where they are sitting on the roof, and then they can return to the bus through the same hatch. Other ideas include using red tape or signs to indicate the "DANGER ZONES" around the school bus. Try using cut out footprints in front of the bus to demonstrate proper crossing procedures. Come up with emergency scenarios and have your students discuss what best way to evacuate the bus would be. Be creative and use your imagination! Remember any SAFE Bus activities will need to be approved by your district.

Activity #16

'REWARD BUDDY'

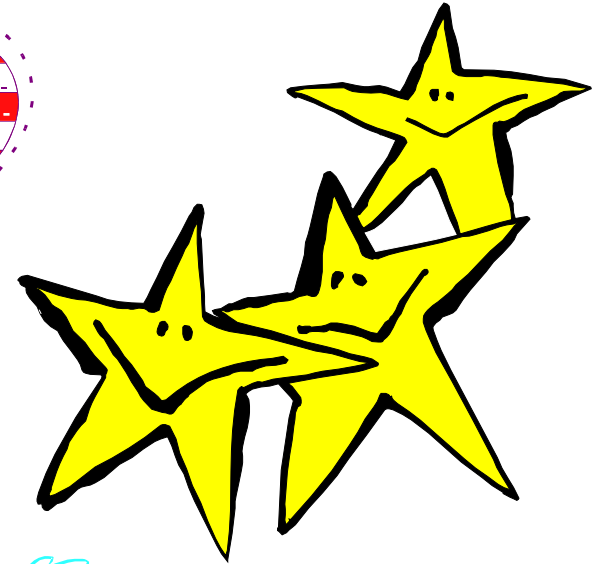
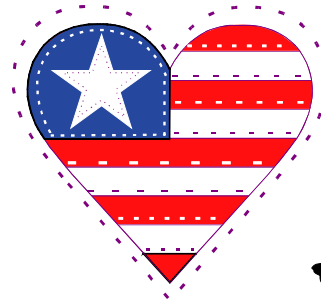


This would be for primarily K-5th graders. When a student has exceptional behavior they would earn the privilege of having the "SPECIAL MASCOT", stuffed animal, ride with them in their seat. It would not be acceptable behavior to pass the mascot around. If the student earns the privilege, the student would keep the "MASCOT" with them until they get to their destination.

Activity #17

"STICKER BOOKLET"

At the beginning of the school year each student would receive a booklet with a page for each month of the school year. The driver will keep the booklets for each student and during the school year place a sticker on each month's page for good behavior. At the end of the year the student will be able to take his/her own personal sticker booklet home.





Activity #18

"WHAT IF...?"



Ask students while at a traffic light, waiting at a school before unloading or loading, while bus is broken down, waiting for a substitute bus, a what if question. For instance... what if the bus driver suddenly slumps over the steering wheel? What would you do? How about if the person sitting in your seat starts to choke, what would you do?

Another example...the back of the bus just got hit by another vehicle, what would you do? How about if you smell something hot on the bus, or you see smoke, what would you do?





"THANK YOU"

for going the extra
mile to keep us safe!!